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# REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 4, 1919.

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### NOTE

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY  
HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS.



## CUBA IMPORTS LARGE QUANTITIES OF POTATOES

Inquiries recently received by the Bureau of Markets indicate that considerable interest is being manifested among potato growers and shippers in regard to the present heavy shipments of Irish potatoes to Cuba. This movement is undoubtedly large, but it is a normal one, as the United States supplies Cuba with nearly half of the potatoes consumed on the island.

Before the war Cuba normally produced only about 550,000 bushels of Irish potatoes, but consumed 2,750,000 bushels, so that each year more than 2,000,000 bushels were obtained from other countries.

During the war Cuba's imports of potatoes were as follows: 1915, 2,744,577 bushels; 1916, 2,829,539 bushels; 1917, 2,750,000 bushels.

The United States has always furnished the bulk of these imports, although there has been keen competition by other nations. The following table, compiled from Cuban official statistics, shows the countries from which Cuba received its supplies for the calendar year 1914, together with the average prices paid per bushel and per barrel:

TABLE 1.- Imports of Irish Potatoes by Cuba for the Calendar Year 1914

Imported from-	Quantity	Value	Average price	
			Per bushel	Per barrel or sack*
	<u>Bushels</u>			
United States...	1,364,216	\$1,219,095	\$ 0.89	\$2.45
Canada .....	554,889	369,375	.66	1.82
Netherlands ...	149,441	87,219	.59	1.61
Belgium .....	92,119	67,570	.74	2.03
England .....	71,082	42,914	.61	1.67
Canary Islands..	24,896	18,675	.85	2.34
Germany .....	16,020	10,312	.64	1.77
Austria .....	8,289	6,780	.77	2.12
Spain .....	5,823	4,972	.86	2.36
France .....	3,606	2,810	.73	2.01
Ireland .....	3,079	2,500	.81	2.23
Mexico .....	2,764	2,867	1.03	2.85
Norway .....	1,675	1,096	.65	1.80
Denmark .....	202	150	.74	2.03
Total .....	2,298,101	\$1,836,335		

\*2.75 bushels.

As shown by Table 1, the United States furnished approximately 60 per cent of Cuba's imports of potatoes, Canada stood second, with 24 per cent, and the Netherlands third, with 7 per cent.

During the war the exports of potatoes from the United States to Cuba doubled. The price increased 93 per cent from 1914 to 1918. Table 2 shows how our exports of potatoes to Cuba increased from 1914 to 1918, almost equaling the estimated prewar consumption. Of course, the consumption of Cuba has increased also, but not in the same proportion as our exports.



TABLE 2.- Exports of Irish Potatoes from the United States to Cuba for the Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 1914 - 1918

Year	Quantity	Value	Average price
	: Bushels		: per bushel
1914	961,542	\$ 787,140	\$0.82
1915	1,878,358	1,278,336	.68
1916	2,324,832	2,143,545	.92
1917	1,278,148	1,815,705	1.42
1918	1,887,999	2,979,676	1.58

Throughout the war period Canada remained our strongest competitor, and now that the Dominion Department of Agriculture has taken steps to increase the production of potatoes, we may be assured that Canada will endeavor to increase its trade with Cuba, as that country is Canada's best customer for potatoes. According to the Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada, that country has acquired the trade formerly held by the European countries and "is now shipping about one-half of what Cuba imports yearly."

As shown by Table 1, the European countries and the Canary Islands supplied Cuba with 16 per cent of the total imports of potatoes during 1914. Undoubtedly this trade will soon again be sought after, although the advantage will always lie with the United States and Canada, provided there is no great difference in the cost at Cuban ports.

It will be seen in Table 1 that in 1914 potatoes from Mexico were the highest priced, \$1.03 per bushel, with those from the United States next, \$0.89 a bushel. This may be accounted for by the fact that potatoes from Mexico reach the Cuban market early in the season; then come those from this country, in June, July, August and September, before the crops from Canada and Europe are ready to ship in large amounts. Potatoes from European countries are usually exported to Cuba during the winter months.

The prices given in Table 1 represent the average of the prices in Cuba, being taken from Cuban reports; those in Table 2 are the average export prices from the United States to Cuba. It should be noted that the statistics given in Table 1 are for the Calendar year 1914, while those in Table 2 are for the fiscal years.

Potatoes from Spain and the Canaries in 1914 brought \$0.86 and \$0.85 per bushel, or nearly as high a price as those from the United States, and higher than stock from other European countries. Potatoes from Spain and the Canary Islands are shipped in crates and bring better prices than those shipped in barrels. The crates are of a similar construction to onion crates, though smaller, being about 3 feet long and holding 50 kilos, or 110 pounds. Potatoes shipped in this manner are well ventilated and usually carry well.



According to the Canadian Weekly Bulletin, Cuban merchants prefer Early Rose, Green Mountain, and Burbank varieties as they seem to possess keeping qualities superior to those of other varieties in the climate of Cuba. Early Rose and Bliss Triumph potatoes for seed bring about \$1 a barrel more than the ordinary stock. The demand for seed in Cuba is during October and November. About 137,500 bushels are needed each year.

The Cuban trade demands good, sound potatoes, well graded, and packed, and of the variety ordered.

As shown by the official statistics of Cuba, the market for potatoes is very dependable, the quantity imported remaining about the same from year to year.

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#### TRADE WITH GREECE RESTRICTED BY NEW REGULATION

The Ministry of Finance of Greece has announced that all importers will be required to deposit with Greek banks 10 per cent of the value of all goods ordered from foreign countries, cabled the American Trade Commissioner at Athens to the Department of Commerce, on August 22, 1919. Failure to make this deposit prevents banks from making any remittances abroad. On presentation of the Greek customs certificate and the checking of the transaction by the Ministry of Finance, the deposit is returned to the importer. An affidavit that the goods are to be used exclusively in Greece is required. Open credit and consignment dealings are thus practically prohibited.

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#### SHIPPER'S EXPORT DECLARATIONS SHOULD BE FILED IN DUPLICATE ONLY

The War Trade Board Section of the Department of State announced on August 21, 1919, that shipper's export declarations, which heretofore have been filed in quadruplicate, are now to be filed in duplicate only. This order also rescinds the rulings requiring that one copy of the declarations accompany the goods to their foreign destination and that one copy be forwarded by the Collector of Customs to the War Trade Board.

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#### TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN TRIESTE

(Cablegram from American Consul at Trieste, Italy, August 26, 1919)

Importers of wool, rice, and sugar at Trieste, Italy, request cabled quotations, c.i.f. Trieste. These offers should be sent to the American Consul at Trieste.



## GRAIN

Reexports of Foreign Rice\* and Beans from the  
United States during July, 1919

Exported to--	Cleaned rice		Beans	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
	Pounds		Bushels	
Denmark .....	610,358	\$ 43,293	---	---
Germany .....	---	---	5,369	\$ 9,500
Greece .....	155,000	20,600	300	1,000
Iceland and Faroe Island .....	225,000	19,236	---	---
Norway .....	141,200	12,806	5,933	18,635
Russia in Europe .....	100,000	12,500	---	---
Sweden .....	---	---	16,682	62,810
England .....	180,000	19,650	19,112	114,672
Canada, Newfoundland & Labrador .....	450,088	40,327	2,297	10,099
Costa Rica .....	14,300	1,290	---	---
Guatemala .....	12,139	1,328	33	63
Nicaragua .....	4,200	400	---	---
Panama .....	194,000	15,700	---	---
Mexico .....	39,752	4,574	3	5
Jamaica .....	50,000	5,000	---	---
Trinidad and Tobago .....	10,500	850	---	---
Cuba .....	2,442,375	197,602	11,439	73,257
Dutch West Indies .....	3,500	280	---	---
Haiti .....	126,470	11,329	---	---
Dominican Republic .....	748,530	67,924	31	220
Chile .....	42,583	2,283	---	---
Colombia .....	406,449	33,913	---	---
Peru .....	11,250	957	---	---
Venezuela .....	61,500	5,380	---	---
Liberia .....	4,480	378	---	---
All others .....	3,260	334	32	213
Total .....	6,036,934	\$517,934	61,231	\$290,474

\*Exports of uncleaned rice: Haiti, 15,500 pounds, valued at \$1,365; Dominican Republic, 83,600 pounds, valued at \$6,819. Exports of rice flour, rice meal, and broken rice: Denmark, 58,400 pounds valued at \$2,800; Newfoundland and Labrador, 867 pounds, valued at \$95; and Cuba, 140 pounds, valued at \$21.

#### MARKET IN GREECE FOR WHEAT AND FLOUR

Greece does not produce much grain, and is therefore dependent mainly upon imports, according to the American Consul General at Athens. Before the war the bulk of the grain imported by Greece came from Russia, Roumania, France, Bulgaria, and the United States. During the war the United States and Canada furnished practically the entire supply. And these countries will still be the principal source of supply until Russia, and the neighboring countries are again in condition to meet the needs of Greece.



Flour should be packed in bags of 50 kilograms (110.25 pounds) and 100 kilograms (220.5 pounds). On wheat the commission paid the agent is 1 per cent; on flour 1½ to 2 per cent. The commission agents attend to customs formalities and pay the duty on wheat and flour. Business with importers is transacted, c.i.f. payment to be made against documents at Athens.

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#### FIRST BAHIA CORN EXPOSITION

(From the American Consul at Bahia, Brazil, July 17, 1919)

"The Department of Agriculture of the State of Bahia, Brazil, has announced the opening of the first Bahian Corn Exposition to be held in September next in the city of Bahia, the State capital. This industry has been receiving much encouragement and assistance from the Government in recent years and a number of valuable prizes including a silver cup will be offered."

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#### DAIRY PRODUCTS

##### AMERICAN CONDENSED MILK IN HONGKONG

In 1918 Hongkong imported condensed milk valued at \$3,886,640. That coming from the United States was valued at \$3,584,854, or 92 per cent of the total imports of that commodity.

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##### STORAGE EGGS GOING TO GREAT BRITAIN

The Canadian Egg and Poultry Markets Report for the week ended August 12, 1919, states that although "inquiries for fall shipment of eggs are still being received, the export of fresh eggs is about over for the season. With a heavy excess of eggs in storage over last year, interest is chiefly centered at the present time in the quantity of storage eggs that will be shipped to Great Britain in the fall. Opinions differ considerably on this question, but what evidence is available points to a very active business for fall shipment having been done by exporters."

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##### SOUTH AFRICAN DAIRY INDUSTRY GROWS

According to the annual report of the South African Department of Agriculture for 1917, the dairy industry is making rapid strides. The total production of butter during 1917 amounted to 9,706 tons, against 8,007 tons the previous year, of which 1,490 tons, valued at £196,020 (\$953,931) were exported, while the imports, which a few years ago were large, were practically negligible.

The increase in the production of cheese was proportionately still greater, 2,133 tons being made in 1917, compared with 988 tons in 1916. £25,435 (\$123,779.43) worth of cheese was imported, though it was not really



wanted, and £5,539 (\$26,955.54) worth was exported. The imports of margarine, which is now being manufactured in the Union, and butter substitutes, decreased from £31,289 (\$152,267.92) in 1916 to £6,977 (\$33,953.57) in 1917. Not only did South Africa therefore produce sufficient butter and cheese for its own requirements instead of having to import large quantities of both, but it had a considerable surplus of butter and a small surplus of cheese, for which, owing to the needs of the British Government, an excellent market was obtained. The growth of cheese-making in particular has been remarkable. A few years ago there were only a small number of cheese factories in the Union, whilst now there are no fewer than 120.

#### LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

##### HAMS, BACON, AND LARD REQUISITIONED IN UNITED KINGDOM

In Reports on Foreign Markets No. 22, page 10, there was published a cablegram from Mr. Edward A. Foley, American Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London, to the effect that the British Government had resumed the control and purchase of pork products. The following excerpts from a report from Mr. Foley, dated August 9, gives detailed information relative to the control to be exercised by the British Ministry of Food:

"The British Food Controller, convinced of the necessity for the resumption of the control of the supply, distribution, and prices of imported bacon, hams, and lard, issued an order requisitioning stocks discharged from ships in Great Britain after August 9. Certain stocks in traders' hands have also been requisitioned.

"The existing schedule of retail prices will continue, but from August 11th the maximum retail price of all refined or home-rendered lard will be 2 shillings (\$0.486) per pound.

"Retailers of bacon, ham, and lard will be tied to wholesalers with whom they were registered on March 1, 1919, but for the present consumers are not required to register with retailers.

"The wholesale prices of home-produced bacon and ham remain unchanged, but for home-produced lard the maximum price of 203 shillings (\$49.33) per cwt. has been fixed.

"The requisitioned foods will be distributed under directions issued by the Ministry of Food; and at maximum wholesale prices, which have been fixed by the Imported Bacon, Ham, and Lard (Prices) Order, 1919. On and after September 1st the maximum wholesale prices prescribed by the above-mentioned Order will apply to all imported bacon, hams and lard, whether distributed by the Ministry or not.

"The orders and directions applicable to prices and distribution do not apply to Ireland, nor are bacon, hams, or lard imported into that country requisitioned under the Order referred to above.

"The General license for the shipment to Ireland of bacon, hams, and lard has been withdrawn, but the shipment of certain cuts suitable for the Irish trade will be allowed up to September 1, and thereafter special arrangements will be made for the supply of imported bacon to that country.



"In the Requisition Order, which is dated August 8th, 1919, occurs the following:

"The Food Controller hereby requires every person owning or having power to dispose of any bacon, ham, or lard which may be discharged from ships in Great Britain after the 9th August, 1919, to place the same at the disposal of the Food Controller and deliver the same to him or to his order.

"Except under the authority of the Food Controller a person shall not, on or after August 9th, 1919, either on his own behalf or on behalf of any other person, buy, sell, or deal in or offer or invite an offer for or propose to buy, sell, or deal in, or

"Enter into negotiations for the sale or purchase of or dealing in any bacon, ham, or lard for the time being outside the United Kingdom, whether or not the sale, purchase, or dealing is or is to be effected in the United Kingdom.

"Nothing in this clause shall affect the shipment to the United Kingdom of bacon, ham, and lard purchased before the 9th August, 1919, for shipment to the United Kingdom."

"The Food Controller issued a statement regarding the necessity of re-imposing official control conditions on the American bacon trade affecting import, distribution and prices. Stocks in importers' hands and arrivals are requisitioned as from today, although wholesalers are allowed some time for the liquidation of present holdings. Beyond this few details as affecting the market are made public and further developments are eagerly awaited.

#### Maximum Retail Prices of Bacon and Ham

Following are the maximum retail prices\* for bacon and ham in the United Kingdom, as published in the National Food Journal:

##### Home-produced

	<u>Per pound</u>
"Pale-dried or smoked (skin on).....	2s. 4d. (\$0.49)
Other than pale-dried or smoked (skin on) .....	2s. 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. (\$0.46)

"Where not less than 28 pounds of bacon and ham (taken together and including home-produced and imported) is sold by retail to any one person at one sale, to be delivered in any one week ending on a Saturday, the above prices must be reduced by 1d. (\$0.018) per pound.

##### Imported

	<u>Per pound</u>
"Pale-dried or smoked .....	2s. 4d. (\$0.49)
Other than pale dried or smoked .....	2s. 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d. (\$0.46)

"On a sale of bacon or ham from which the skin has been removed the above prices may be increased by 2d. (\$0.035) per pound.

\*Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on August 25, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.21.



"Where not less than 28 pounds of bacon and ham (taken together and including imported and home-produced) is sold by retail to any one person at one sale, to be delivered in any one week, ending on a Saturday, the above prices must be reduced by 1d. (0.018) per pound.

#### Home-produced and Imported

"Bacon or ham from which the skin has been removed may be charged 2d. (\$0.035) per pound more.

"Cost of suitable wrappings and packages is included in the price. No charge for packing or giving credit.

"Where delivery is made at buyer's request elsewhere than at seller's premises an additional charge up to 3d. (\$0.009) per pound, or any sum actually and properly paid for carriage."

#### WHAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PAID FOR MEATS

The following table from the Pastoral Review (Melbourne, Australia) gives a comparison of the costs and profits made in purchases of Argentine and New Zealand meats by the British Government early this year. It is of interest to the meat trade chiefly in showing the distribution of costs and profits under Government control. The cost of handling bacon between the United States and England was given in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 12, page 7.

#### Distribution of Costs and Profits per Pound of Argentine and New Zealand Meats Purchased by the British Government

Item	Argentine meat				New Zealand	
	Army meat		Civilian meat		lamb for	
	Beef	Mutton	Beef	lamb	army or	civilians
Cost, c.i.f. ....	----	----	\$0.21	\$0.23	\$0.175	
Cost, f.o.b. ....	\$0.115	\$0.110	---	---	---	---
Freight .....	.025	.025	---	---	---	---
Insurance .....	.00375	.00375	---	---	---	---
Landing, storage, etc. ....	.0075	.0075	---	---	---	---
Total cost ..	\$0.15125	\$0.14625				
Selling price ....	----	----	.283	.303	.3030	
Expenses .....	----	----	.030	.030	.0325	
Gov't profit .....	----	----	.048	.043	.0955	
Shipper's profit ..	----	----	.060	.085	---	

# WOOL AND HITES

## SPECIAL REPORTS ON AUGUST SERIES OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS\*

(Cables from American Consul General at London for Bureau of Markets)

At the wool auction of August 21st 9,500 bales were offered. Sydney and Queensland greasy merinos ranged from 59s and 46s. (\$1.04 and \$0.81) per pound, respectively. A good many lots at prices near these values were included among the purchases for British and American accounts. A plentiful supply of Sydney scoured merinos ranged from 43 to 72s. (\$0.75 to \$1.26). Victorian greasy crossbreds and comebacks found favor with the foreign element. New Zealand greasy and scoured crossbreds sold up to 51 and 34s. (\$0.89 and \$0.60), respectively. Several scoured merinos realized 69s. (\$1.20) for combing and 64 to 66s. (\$1.12 to \$1.16) per pound for pieces. Punta Arenas greasy crossbred wools covering 2,500 bales realized prices running on a par with similar New Zealand descriptions. The best realized 39s. (\$0.68).

On the 22d the fifth series of Government colonial wool auctions closed with 10,000 bales offered. The demand was brisk at prices on a par with those hitherto ruling. During the series over 113,000 bales were offered, and about 50,000 bales were taken for export, chiefly for France. On the 11th merinos were without material change in value compared with the preceding auctions, while finer grades of crossbreds ruled 5 per cent higher. Prices advanced during earlier part of the week from 5 to 10 per cent. The coarser grades of greasy crossbreds closed about 5 per cent below the prices of the last sales. The next sale will be held on September 15.

On the 23d 14,772 bales of Government colonial wool were submitted "on description." Among them were 2,669 Sydney greasy varieties. The best parcels were secured for the American and British trade. Compared with the sale of the 21st the prices ruled from 2 to 4s. (\$0.035 to \$0.07) higher; 80's quality and upwards realizing 55s. (\$0.97); 70's, 59s. (\$1.03); 74's to 80's, 59s. (\$1.04); 70's to 74's 52s. (\$0.91). Port Philip scoured clips amounting to 3,432 bales were in demand from 50's quality and above, but grades below were largely withdrawn; 53's extra-super full wool free, or practically free, 3-1/4 inches or longer, realized up to 68s. (\$1.19); 58's and 56's realized 52 and 57s. (\$1.09 and \$1.00), respectively. Grades of 44's and upwards of 8,000 bales of New Zealand greasy crossbreds were obtained chiefly by Yorkshire firms, but qualities below 44's were withdrawn. The quantity sold ruled in favor of the buyers as compared with the sale of the 21st, the best of 56's to 58's realizing 42s. (\$0.74); 56's 41s. (\$0.73); 50's 38s. (\$0.65); 32s. (\$0.57); 50's, 30s. (\$0.53), and 48's to 50's, 28s. (\$0.49).

\*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on day of sale:

August 21, one pound sterling = \$4.285; August 22, \$4.195; August 23, \$4.205.

# COTTON

## Current Ocean Freight Rates on Cotton

(Rates furnished by United States Shipping Board)

Destination	Rate per 100 pounds from -			
	Atlantic ports		Gulf ports	
	High density	Standard*	High density	Standard*
Belgium:				
Antwerp .....	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$1.75	\$2.00
Ghent .....	1.60	1.85	1.85	2.10

\*Except by special agreement and until further notice bookings of standard cotton are limited to 25 per cent of the total shipment of cotton by any vessel.



Current Ocean Freight Rates on Cotton (continued)

Destination	Rate per 100 pounds from -			
	Atlantic ports		Gulf ports	
	High density	Standard	High density	Standard
Danzig .....	\$2.25	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.75
Denmark (Copenhagen) .....	2.00	2.25	2.25	2.50
Finland (Helsingfors) .....	2.50	2.75	2.75	3.00
France:				
Atlantic ports .....	1.50	1.75	1.75	2.00
Mediterranean ports .....	2.00	2.25	2.25	2.50
Germany (Bremen or Hamburg)....	1.75	2.00	2.00	2.25
Greece:				
Piraeus or Patras .....	3.25	3.50	3.50	3.75
Salonica .....	3.50	3.75	3.75	4.00
Italy:				
Main ports .....	2.25	2.50	2.50	2.75
Venice .....	2.60	2.85	2.85	3.10
Trieste .....	2.60	2.85	2.85	3.10
Fiume .....	2.60	2.85	2.85	3.10
Netherlands (Rotterdam) .....	1.50	1.75	1.75	2.00
Portugal .....	1.50	1.75	1.75	2.00
Sweden:				
Gothenburg .....	2.00	2.25	2.25	2.50
Stockholm .....	2.50	2.75	2.75	3.00
Spain (Barcelona or Valencia)...	2.25	2.50	2.50	2.75
United Kingdom* .....	1.25	1.50	1.50	1.75

\*Until further notice a surcharge of 25¢ per 100 pounds must be added to rates to Liverpool and London (effective April 23, 1919).

These rates apply to steamers operated for the United States Shipping Board, and are subject to change without notice but are not subject to speculative fluctuation. The same rates may be quoted as the minimum rates by uncontrolled tonnage, but higher rates may be demanded depending on the volume of cargo offered.

#### COTTON IMPORTERS AT HAVRE, FRANCE

A list of the members of the Commercial Cotton Association (Syndicat du Commerce du Coton) of Havre, France, may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets by asking for report France 123008.

MOVEMENT OF FREIGHT TO SEABOARD FOR EXPORT  
(Compiled from statistics furnished by U. S. Railroad Administration)  
Grain

North Atlantic ports			Gulf ports		
Quantity (bushels)			Quantity (bushels)		
Week ended--			Port		
Aug. 27			Aug. 26		
Received in	:	:	New Orleans	5,413,613	4,641,777
elevator	6,493,916	6,050,202	Port Arthur	Empty	Empty
Clearances	6,212,953	5,019,154	Texas City	do	do
Total in ele-	:	:	Galveston	3,559,723	506,365
vator at end	:	:		:	:
of week	12,627,342 <sup>a</sup>	12,971,087 <sup>b</sup>	Total	8,973,335 <sup>c</sup>	5,148,142 <sup>d</sup>

<sup>a</sup>65 per cent of total elevator capacity; <sup>b</sup>65.7 per cent of total elevator capacity; <sup>c</sup>74.5 per cent of total elevator capacity; <sup>d</sup>42.7 per cent of total elevator capacity.

EXPORT FREIGHT.- As indicating the export shipping situation, there is given below the total number of carloads of export freight received and delivered during the week and the carloads on hand at the seaboard awaiting clearance, exclusive of bulk grain and coal.

Ports	Quantity (carloads) for week ended--					
	August 27			August 20		
	On hand	Received	Delivered	On hand	Received	Delivered
North Atlantic	19,205	7,330	6,557	18,494	6,931	7,278
South Atlantic	:	:	:	:	:	:
and Gulf	9,293	---	---	9,894	---	---
Pacific Coast	1,386 <sup>a</sup>	697 <sup>a</sup>	569 <sup>a</sup>	1,411 <sup>b</sup>	914 <sup>b</sup>	957 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Status on August 22. <sup>b</sup>Status on August 15.

FOODSTUFFS.- As of August 27th reports show at North Atlantic ports 3,471 cars of export food on hand (exclusive of bulk grain), compared with 3,083 cars as of August 20th, an increase of 388 cars.

PORT NOTES.- The Italian Government is loading 10 steamers with 14,386 tons of cereals at New York.

The British Ministry of Shipping announced that there will be a large tonnage at New York during September for the shipment of hams, bacon, and lard.

A large movement of cattle is expected through Philadelphia, the initial shipment to move early this month for Antwerp.

A heavy movement of tobacco for export is expected soon at Norfolk.

On August 21st 741 head, and on the 25th 367 head of cattle purchased by the French Government were exported from Newport News.

Newport News will be utilized in handling export wheat for the United States Grain Corporation.



### IMPORTS OF CORN AND MEATS INTO NEW YORK FOR WEEK ENDED AUGUST 30

Five shipments of corn arrived from Argentina during the week ended August 30. On August 25 two consignments, amounting to 198,190 bushels, entered the port; on the 27th 10,040 bushels; on the 28th 43,720 bushels, and on the 30th 255,978 bushels were entered. Total during the week 507,928 bushels.

On August 26th 108,350 pounds of salted tripe arrived from Chile. On August 27th 2,001 quarters of beef, weighing 300,150 pounds arrived from Central America.

### EXPORTS OF LIVESTOCK FROM NEW YORK DURING WEEK ENDED AUGUST 30

On August 29th 6 horses were shipped to England; 9 horses and 402 cattle were exported to Belgium. On the 30th 130 horses were forwarded to France and 2 mules and 6 horses to Bermuda.

### Exports of Meats and Meat Products from New York City During Week Ended August 30\*

(Compiled by Bureau of Markets at New York Custom House)

Commodity	Weekly exports	Total since July 1
Beef:	Pounds	Pounds
Fresh or frozen .....	315,335	38,877,137
Canned and pickled.....	694,305	10,613,126
Lamb and mutton .....	3,586	39,987
Pork:		
Fresh or frozen .....	324,355	5,302,752
Dry, salt, and pickled .....	5,216,716	78,843,201
Bacon, hams, and shoulders....	3,837,647	70,945,149
Sausage .....	53,753	1,980,508
Poultry and game .....	400	539,391
Lard and lard compounds.....	4,625,781	72,703,656

\*Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination 65. Light meat exports were noted during the past week, with the exception of a shipment to Hamburg, Germany, on August 26 which included 3,904,798 pounds of dry, salt, and pickled pork and 2,685,657 pounds of lard.

Exports of Dairy Products, Hay and Grain from New York City  
During Week Ended August 30

## DAIRY PRODUCTS\*

Destination	Butter (pounds)	Oleo- margarine (pounds)	Cheese (pounds)	Condensed milk (lb.)	Ev'p'd milk (lb.)	Eggs ( doz.)
Belgium .....	1,034,191	----	2,741	300,000	325,000	---
France .....	----	100	115	96,300	264,320	---
Italy .....	----	20,000	----	2,400	----	---
Scandinavia ....	----	43,350	69,955	----	15,125	---
United Kingdom..	----	11,125	----	2,495,724	1,997,287	---
Near East .....	----	----	----	2,290,183	2,852,471	---
Central America:	10,402	35,825	6,403	13,739	60,066	---
South America...	454	----	5,689	447	----	---
West Indies ....	24,102	21,105	28,487	611,866	3,016	---
Miscl. ....	348	126,296	2,505	933	8,761	---
Total .....	1,069,497	257,801	115,895	5,812,132	5,526,046	---
Total since :	:	:	:	:	:	:
July 1 .....	5,285,558	1,928,691	1,306,938	51,820,548	33,275,641	872,400

\*Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 1; France 11; Italy 4; Scandinavia 2; United Kingdom 14; Near East 1; Central America 1; South America 7; West Indies 9; Miscellaneous 15; Total 65. On August 26th 994,406 pounds of butter were exported to Belgium. On August 19 approximately 63,000 pounds of cheese were shipped to Sweden. The Near East consignment of 2,290,183 pounds of condensed and 2,852,471 pounds of evaporated milk was shipped to Constantinople, Turkey, and Batum, Russia.

## HAY AND GRAINS\*\*

Destination	Wheat (bu.)	Flour (bbl.)	Oats (bu.)	Barley (bu.)	Malt (bu.)	Barley malt (bu.)	Hay (lb.)
Belgium .....	145,599	9	50,023	34,900	----	----	----
France .....	993,328	6,652	342,180	208	33,387	----	----
Italy .....	225,717	----	----	----	18,384	----	----
Scandinavia ..	----	480	----	----	32,430	7,236	----
United Kingdom...	491,323	5,738	335,441	99,790	----	----	----
Near East ...	----	15,271	----	----	----	----	----
Central America...	----	1,233	----	----	2,550	----	----
South America...	----	30,005	----	----	169,653	----	----
West Indies ..	----	8,134	2,845	----	----	3,823	165,926
Miscl. ....	----	3,115	----	----	16,173	----	----
Total .....	1,856,467	70,637	730,489	134,898	272,627	11,059	165,926
Total since :	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
July 1 .....	4,615,564	2,211,160	4,715,759	2,953,497	1,521,433	614,258	1,238,638

\*\*Gross weights given. Manifests pending examination: Belgium 1; France 13; Italy 4; Scandinavia 2; United Kingdom 14; Near East 1; Central America 1; South America 7; West Indies 9; Miscellaneous 15; Total 57. The shipment of flour to the Near East was consigned to Constantinople, Turkey, and Batum, Russia. On August 27th 84,241 bushels of Red Winter wheat were shipped to England. The miscellaneous item of 16,173 bushels of malt was a consignment shipped on the 23th to Switzerland.



SEP 13 1919

# REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 11, 1919.

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### NOTE

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY  
HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS.

## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE LIVESTOCK SITUATION IN BRAZIL

By David Harrell, Livestock Commissioner in South America,  
and H. P. Morgan, Assistant in Marketing Live-  
stock and Meats, Bureau of Markets

Brazil, a country embracing 3,275,510 square miles of territory, presents a problem entirely new to the average breeder of livestock in the United States. In a country, largely subtropical, infested with the cattle tick, and where diseases contagious to livestock are prevalent, we find efforts being made in several directions to overcome the natural drawbacks, and to develop an industry which seems to be destined to become a decided factor in the meat supply of the world. With a climate never colder than our spring or autumn and possibilities of grazing throughout the year, Brazil has many advantages which utilized can not fail to place the country in the important position it rightfully holds in the livestock and meat industries of the world.

### Misinformation Regarding Brazil

So much misinformation has been published and so many false impressions have been allowed to become recognized as facts that several of these must be corrected before constructive work can be started. It is the belief of some persons in the United States that Brazil is a country overrun with wild, native cattle which are only waiting for an abattoir or transportation facilities to convert a great supply of livestock into available meat. Large portions of Brazil are inaccessible except on horseback or with mules, and these are neither the jungles nor the unexplored places, but the great producing lands of Minas Geraes, Matto Grosso, and Parana. Few trained men of an observing mind have carefully investigated this area, and many of the reports which have reached the United States have been written upon hearsay evidence which has greatly exaggerated the true facts of the case. It is true that comparatively large numbers of surplus stock have accumulated, owing to the impossibility of marketing and poor transportation. However, since the erection of packing establishments so much of this surplus has been absorbed that many of these plants are now lying idle waiting for the young stock to mature.

### Need for Improving Stock Should be Demonstrated

Notwithstanding the fact that various diseases are prevalent in Brazil which reduce the rapidity of the increase of the herds, the usually mild winters and the natural pastoral advantages make the raising of livestock a much simpler matter than in much of the United States. The large ranches of thirty years ago in Texas and Wyoming are hardly a fair comparison with the normal raising of livestock in Brazil. With a disease-resistant foundation stock a few favorable years finds the stockman with a great surplus upon which he has expended practically no labor. This, with the ease of obtaining his simple living naturally causes him to discount the necessity for improving his livestock. Money as such is not sufficiently necessary to the breeder of livestock in the raising sections that he feels that he must



take every advantage and study how to breed cattle a little better than his neighbor.

In many sections this has led to inbreeding to such an extent that the vitality and disease-resisting quality of the stock has deteriorated. This fact must be carefully considered in attempting to interest the breeder in pure-bred livestock. After he sees the necessity for improvement and the advantages to be gained, doubtless a large trade may be expected with him. It will be necessary to study seriously the general industry in Brazil in order to have a sympathetic knowledge of conditions. A number of conceptions accepted in the United States heretofore as facts will have to be revised.

### Brazil's Livestock Resources

In order that a better idea of Brazil's resources in livestock may be gained, the following figures for 1917, secured from published official reports, are given:

TABLE 1.- Census of Livestock in Brazil for 1917

Kind	: State of : Rio Grande	: State of : Minas Geraes	: Other : States	: Total
Cattle .....	8,057,062	6,861,100	15,787,238	30,705,400
Horses .....	1,195,613	1,744,100	4,349,977	7,289,690
Mules .....	345,077	779,170	2,113,693	3,207,940
Goats .....	121,128	516,740	9,410,702	10,048,570
Sheep .....	4,241,386	446,690	5,861,854	10,549,930
Swine .....	3,832,144	6,716,400	7,851,986	18,400,530
Total .....	17,762,410	17,064,200	45,375,450	80,202,060
Value .....	\$292,425,000	\$350,920,000	\$665,007,000	\$1,308,352,000

### Exports of Meat Decrease

At the present time there are either completed or in the process of construction meat-packing establishments in Brazil having a capacity of 3,200 cattle, 6,000 hogs, and 2,000 sheep daily.

The following table gives the exports of chilled and frozen meats from Brazil for the prewar year 1914 and from 1915 to June of 1919.

TABLE 2.- Exports of Chilled and Frozen Meats from Brazil,  
1914 - June, 1919

Year	: Quantity:	Value	:: Year	: Quantity :	Value
	: Tons :			: Tons :	
1914 .....	1	\$ 301	:: 1917 .....	66,452	\$15,423,000
1915 .....	8,514	1,514,116	:: 1918 .....	59,769	----
1916 .....	33,661	6,915,140	:: 1919 (Jan. to June,		
			:: inclusive)	17,303	----

These figures show that exports of chilled and frozen meat from Brazil during the past few years have been steadily decreasing since 1917, despite the fact that the war created a demand that could not be filled. On elimina-

ting the question of shipping it would seem that the expected surplus of cattle from Brazil was not forthcoming. Interviews with representatives of the various packing plants indicate that there was no lack of effort on their part to secure the needed number, but that it was impossible to find the cattle. One interesting fact was also brought out in these discussions- namely, that in many cases where they were willing to pay the price and one which was admittedly larger than had ever before been paid, the owners of the cattle refused to sell, owing to the added effort required to transport the cattle to the trains and plants.

#### No Large Surplus of Cattle

If we estimate 4.5 cattle to the ton, it will be seen from Table 2 that approximately 270,000 cattle were slaughtered in the abattoirs during 1918. If we assume that there will be available the same number of cattle ready for slaughter in 1919 as in 1917 and that the packing plants continue to run full capacity, based on these figures there are only enough cattle to supply the plants for 85 full days. This comparison is drawn merely to show that the commonly supposed idea that there are enormous reserves of cattle in Brazil is without foundation.

#### Government Aids in Importation of Pure-Bred Cattle

In the past the cattle killed were between 6 and 10 years old; at present it is much more common to see 3-to-5-year olds slaughtered, and very few of the latter. This condition of affairs is engaging the attention of the Government agencies, and various methods are being employed to give encouragement and aid to the stockmen. In addition to the Government investigations, the following policy was decided upon by the Minister of Agriculture as a further means of assisting in the improvement of the herds.

The Director of the Bureau of Livestock Industries, Dr. Alcides Mirenda, was instructed to study and propose the best method of applying during the present fiscal year the appropriation set aside for the purpose of assisting in the importation of pure-bred breeding animals and in adding to the stock at the various breeding posts, the model stock ranches, and the various remount stations maintained by the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Livestock Industries proposed as a preliminary measure to invite all those interested in the importation of cattle to send in their orders by May 30. Over 150 orders were received from cattle raisers in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Sao Paulo, Minas Geraes, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Alagoas, Pernambuco, Ceara, Piahy, Maranhao, and Para. The value of animals, with cost of freight added, by countries of origin, follows:

Europe, \$497,255; United States, \$130,522; Argentina, \$233,500; India, \$752,698; Miscellaneous, \$63,909; total \$1,677,884.

According to the law passed by the Brazilian Congress, which provides that one-half of the cost and freight be for the account of the Government, the Government aid would equal \$838,942 gold. The amount appropriated by Congress for this purpose was only \$327,690, of which \$109,230 necessarily must be spent for Department stations, so that it will be impossible for the Government to comply with all of the requests. The Government accordingly eliminated all the orders for Indian, or Zebu, cattle, representing more than half of all the orders received. The reasons given for this procedure



were that, inasmuch as a large proportion of the cattle imported under the provisions of the act last year were of this type, and were acclimated, and furthermore these cattle were not subject to this extra expense for special feed and care.

A further reduction in the number of animals which could be imported under the provisions of the act was necessary owing to the fact that about \$109,230 must be used for Government animals. This left approximately \$218,460 to be used to help interested breeders who were willing to pay one-half the cost of the animals and the freight. It would seem that this aid from the Government should be productive of results, especially if the placing of the orders is handled carefully and the right kind of animals selected.

As revised by the Ministry of Agriculture, these orders are to be placed as follows: England, \$109,230; United States, \$29,492; Argentina, \$51,338; Arabia, Syria, etc., \$28,399; total \$218,459.

With this yearly aid from the Department of Agriculture of Brazil there is a continuous effort shown by the Government to assist the enterprising breeder and consequently the general livestock of the country. There are several ways in which this may reflect upon the industry as a whole: First, the increasing effort necessary to earn a livelihood which will result in better methods of raising and breeding cattle; second, the example of the Government experiment stations, which are spending large sums of money to demonstrate to the breeder improved methods; and third, the discrimination that will naturally result in the various packing houses between well-bred and well-fattened cattle over the unimproved native cattle.

### Large Interests Help Industry

In connection with the packing industry in Brazil, a very constructive policy is being established by several of the companies in assisting in the building up of the stock. Obviously in the face of the lack of interest which is shown by many Brazilian breeders, it is doubtful whether there are many of the single breeders in the United States who are willing to undertake the building up of a trade with Brazil. This subject is one which requires a large amount of study and constructive reasoning. It is doubtful whether the first shipments will show a profit. It seems as though it would be necessary to pool unselfishly the capital and the effort if the United States is to have the hoped-for trade with South America.

### Brazilian Swine Industry

As shown in Table 1, there are approximately 18,500,000 hogs in Brazil. The industry as practiced here presents a problem somewhat peculiar in that practically all of the development has been with a view of producing an animal which would yield a large proportion of fat and lard rather than pork. This has been explained by the fact that Brazilians use large amounts of fat and lard in cooking, while lean pork is not held in quite as high favor as in the United States.

As a result of these facts the native swine of the country have been developed to attain great size, although not at an early age. The time to grow and fatten an animal has not been so important a factor as in the United States, although with the great demand which may be expected by reason of the

large capacity of the packing houses this feature will doubtless become more prominent.

The two leading breeds of native swine are the Canastro Mineiro and the Tattoo. The former are large, red or black hogs, which when fat yield a large proportion of lard and fat. The latter are not as large when finished but are relatively as excessively fat as the Canastro Mineiro. It has been the custom to market these hogs when 3 or 4 years old and the slow growth and fattening process has not tended to make as fine a pork product as with a more rapid growth and finish.

By far the greatest activity in the importation of pure-bred livestock has been in hogs. The Duroc-Jersey, the Poland-China, and the Berkshire in particular have met with the greatest degree of success and the improvement shown in the swine on the ranches where these breeds have been used is arousing the interest of the Brazilian breeders. The industry in general is very favorable and with reasonable care there are very few drawbacks. It is entirely possible to so conduct the breeding that five litters in two years are not uncommon. With very little cold weather and large pastures, particularly where succulent feeds are grown, hogs do very well.

Brazilian swine do not suffer from hog cholera to any greater extent than in those in the United States. With the employment of modern methods of prevention and the use of large pastures a very rapid development in hog raising seems to be taking place. One of the most important factors in this development is the assistance being rendered by the development divisions of several of the packing companies. Importations have been made and the breeding animals sold the breeders by these companies in an effort to assist in the grading up of the stock and thus produce an animal which would be of more commercial value for pork, as well as lard and fat. Owing to the smaller total cost of the imported animals and the discrimination which naturally results from any improvement, an active interest is being shown by many of the breeders.

Without thoroughly studying the entire country it is impossible at this time to give more specific data on the swine-raising industry; however, it is apparent that American breeds of swine are held in high favor in Brazil. In a natural swine-raising country the outlook is entirely favorable for importation of hogs into this country especially for grading-up purposes. At this time the best methods to employ are not sufficiently worked out, but any importations attempted should be made with a thought for the future trade as well as the one immediately at hand.

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#### RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH HUNGARY

The War Trade Board Section of the Department of State announced that, effective September 2, 1919, the resumption of trade and communication between the United States and Hungary has been authorized.

Exports from the United States to Hungary will be controlled by individual export licenses, but such licenses for agricultural products will be issued freely upon application.

Imports into the United States from Hungary may take place under General Import License PBF No. 37 (W.T.B R.325 issued August 15, 1919), which has been revised and extended, effective September 2, 1919, so as to permit the importation from Hungary, without individual import licenses, of all



agricultural commodities produced or manufactured in Hungary except sugar and wheat and wheat flour.

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### TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

A firm at Gothenburg, Sweden, is in the market for cotton waste. The name of this concern may be had by asking for Report Sweden 123230.

A Fiume merchant wishes to represent large exporters of sugar, rice, lard, suet in barrels, raw cotton, and cottonseed oils. For further information ask for Report Fiume 123228.

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### PART AGRICULTURE PLAYS IN FOREIGN TRADE

The total foreign commerce of the United States for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1919, amounted to \$10,169,838,111, divided as follows: Imports, \$3,095,876,582; exports, \$7,074,011,529.

The foreign trade of this country in agricultural products for the same period totaled \$5,770,917,553, or 57 per cent of our entire foreign trade. The agricultural imports amounted to \$2,074,833,629, or 67 per cent of the total imports, while the exports were valued at \$3,696,033,924, or 52 per cent of our entire export trade.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, the total foreign trade of the United States amounted to \$4,223,609,682. Then agriculture did not play quite as important a part in our total trade, although more than half (54 per cent) of the entire commerce of this country was in agricultural products. Our agricultural imports amounted to 57 per cent of our total imports in 1914 as against 67 per cent for 1919; however, the proportion of agricultural exports to total exports remained about the same, 52 per cent.

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### SWITZERLAND AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD FOR AMERICAN COMMERCE IN EUROPE

(From the American Vice Consul at Geneva, Switzerland, June 21, 1919)

With the ending of the Great War and the gradual return to normal business conditions and the recommencement of competition that will inevitably obtain, I wish to state the possibilities of Switzerland in the future as an experimental field in introducing American products in the European Market. Switzerland is perhaps already the greatest experimental field in the world in many lines, politically, economically, and socially.

The American manufacturer of the future who has once gained a place in the Swiss market will find it less difficult to expand into the Italian, French, and Central European markets hereafter. This will be true for several reasons among which are the following: selling methods that will appeal to the citizen of that part of Switzerland which borders on France will also appeal to the French citizen to a greater or less degree. The same will be true of the section bordering on Italy and Italy itself, and the section bordering on Austria and Germany and these two latter countries. This is due

to a similarity of language, ways, customs and habits of thought between the different parts of Switzerland and the surrounding countries of the same race. Although the people are one and distinct in their big fundamental ideas and ends, yet in the details of their daily life and manner of doing business, they greatly resemble their respective larger neighbors. It is a well known fact that trade with a country is greatly facilitated and advanced when the American seller understands the language, customs, habits, etc. of the people. Switzerland is a trilingual country and a great number of the people speak the three languages. Another point to take into consideration is the central geographic position of Switzerland as regards the continental European nations. It is within less than thirty hours by train from the four leading European capitals. Switzerland has been spoken of as the clearing house for Europe and it appears from present conditions that the future may bring this about.

#### EXPORT ASSOCIATION FOR FINLAND

An association for the promotion of the exportation of Finland's products is being formed with headquarters at Abo. The association will disseminate information regarding Finland's export trade, seek new markets for Finnish goods, furnish credit information, and study the various questions connected with the export trade. Close contact with the Finnish Government will be maintained.

Abo, the headquarters of the association, is one of the principal seaports of Finland and has a population of 55,000. Until 1819 the city was the capital of Finland.

#### FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

##### LOW FIXED PRICE OF APPLES IN UNITED KINGDOM KEEPS OUT CHOICE AMERICAN FRUIT

According to a report of the American Consul General at London to the Department of State, under date of August 11, 1919, "prior to the placing of apples under the supervision of the Food Controller in Great Britain last winter, the price of apples soared to the almost incredible price of \$0.60 per pound, and it was to stop profiteering in this fruit that shortly before last Christmas the Food Controller announced that no apples could be sold above the price of \$0.18 per pound.

"I have been informed by an importer of apples that this price was too low to permit first-class American and Canadian apples being placed on the market at a profit, with the consequence that during the past winter although considerable quantities of apples were received here from the United States and Canada, none of such apples were of first-class quality, but mostly of third and fourth grades. It is felt in the fruit-importing circles that if the control price could be raised by a few cents per pound a better class of apple could be imported for consumption in Great Britain with resulting benefits both to the seller and to the consumer."



## COOPERATION IN AUSTRALIAN DRIED-FRUIT INDUSTRY

The organization of the Australian dried-fruit industry has recently taken place, according to a report of the American Trade Commissioner at Melbourne to the Department of Commerce, dated June 10, 1919. The report says:

"Cooperation in Australia is of comparatively recent growth, and has been in the past mainly confined to the dairying industry. Recently, however, the fruit growers in the Murray River districts along the South Australian and Victorian border, who represent 95 per cent of the producers of dried fruits in Australia, have formed a cooperative company under the name of the Australian Dried Fruits Association. As is the case in most cooperative concerns, the association is solely financed by and in the interests of the growers themselves, and marketing conditions and administration are entirely in the hands of the members.

"The founders of the Australian Dried Fruit Association have recognized what has long been the stumbling block in the success of the industry--that is, the lack of coordination between the grower and the consumer--and in order to overcome this difficulty, they have organized a publicity campaign on a large scale. A store has been opened in Melbourne where all fruits produced by the Association can be obtained, and poster and picture-film advertisements are familiarizing the fruit-eating public with the new products."

### GRAIN

#### AUSTRALIAN WHEAT SHIPMENTS IN 1919

According to the London Grain, Seed, and Oil Reporter, Australia exported from January 1st to July 31st 57,176,000 bushels of wheat, including flour as wheat. Of this amount the United Kingdom received 2,776,000 bushels; 3,752,000 bushels went to Continental Europe; 12,800,000 bushels were sent to non-European countries, including 4,928,000 bushels for India; and 37,843,000 bushels were shipped "for orders."

#### HONGKONG GRADES OF PEANUTS AND PEANUT OIL

"Peanuts bought in Hongkong are classed as 'unshelled' or 'shelled,' the latter being graded in accordance with the number of kernels to the ounce, subject to the Marine Surveyor's report.

"Peanut oil is graded in two qualities, and is sold under the Government Analyst's certificate as to genuineness and purity."

—British Board of Trade Journal.

### OILS AND OILSEEDS

#### SPECULATION IN OIL SEEDS IN UNITED KINGDOM

According to Agricultural Trade Commissioner Foley, "some instances of speculative purchases of oil seeds were recently brought to the notice of the Food Controller and action has already been taken in the matter. Dealings

in these commodities are now restricted to legitimate traders who have been licensed for the purpose and it is a punishable offense for an unlicensed person to buy, sell, or otherwise deal in them."

#### UNITED STATES TAKES BULK OF HONGKONG WOOD OIL

"The exports of wood oil from Hongkong in 1918 amounted in value to \$2,051,629. Of this total the share taken by the United States was \$1,269,081 whilst exports to the United Kingdom amounted to \$267,215. One difficulty encountered in connection with this trade is with regard to the method of packing, there being an excessive leakage in the case of the casks usually employed, whilst steel drums would appear to be too expensive. If some more satisfactory method of shipment could be devised, it would certainly tend to the development of the trade. South China wood oil is not graded, being sold in one quality only, under the "Browne Heat Test" made by the Government analyst, who gives a certificate. It is said that the oil is of somewhat inferior quality to that produced in North China." --British Board of Trade Journal.

#### WOOL AND HIDES

##### WOOL SITUATION IN CANADA

The following report on the wool situation in Canada received by the Department of State from the American Consul at Kingston, Ontario, under date of August 18 indicates that there probably will be a large surplus of wool available for export this year:

"The wool clip of Canada for 1919 has been placed at 15,000,000 pounds, according to July estimates. This represents a very material increase over 1918. Government figures would indicate a production of close to 18,000,000 pounds, but this is thought by well-informed persons in the wool trade to be in excess of the actual clip. The 1918 production was 12,000,000 pounds. The sheep population has been increased by between 300,000 and 400,000 making the gain in wool production amount to between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 pounds. The increase is believed to be fairly evenly distributed over Canada. So far as distribution is concerned, it is believed that a much smaller proportion of the clip will be absorbed by the Canadian woolen mills. Although between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 pounds were sold within Canada in 1918, mostly for domestic consumption, the total this year is not expected to exceed 1,500,000 pounds. The amount of wool sold to date is about 1,500,000 pounds, of which a portion will probably find a resale market in the United States.

"Methods of merchandising wool, so far as the American market is concerned, are entirely different from those obtained last year. In 1918 the practice was to ship the wool to Boston after obtaining export and import licenses from the Canadian and American Governments, respectively. On arriving at destination the wool was warehoused and was appraised by Government valuers and was taken by the Quarter-



master General's Department. The plan this year is to send samples to Boston. The wool is actually bought by American representatives before it is shipped from Canada.

"The movement of wool to the American market will probably start very soon. The staple is coming forward at the rate of about five cars a day, most of which is from western Canada. Early requirements of the mills using the domestic product has been satisfied. Most of the consumers have fairly large stocks of Australasian and South American wool that has been carried over from last year. There is not the same urgency to replace depleted stocks that existed a year ago. This is making the Canadian purchases of domestic wool much lighter, and there will consequently be a more extensive movement to the United States.

"The finer grades have been much in demand, and as the supply of the best quality staple has decreased, the lower quality wool has become more active. The shipment of Canadian wool to the United States will probably begin about the middle of August."

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#### HULL, ENGLAND, A NEW WOOL PORT

(From American Consul at Bradford, England, July 15, 1919)

"An important development in the wool trade is the use of the port of Hull, for the first time in its commercial history, for the import of large quantities of wool, the Government officials having allocated to that port 50,000 bales per month. In addition to cargoes of direct overseas steamships, coastwise vessels are also bringing wool to Hull and at the present time there are stored at the docks about 100,000 bales valued at between four and five millions sterling (\$19,488,000 and \$24,332,500). Owing to the lack of hotel accommodation at Hull, the wool sales will be held at Bradford, special trains being run from Bradford and Leeds to enable the buyers to examine the wool prior to the sales, the first of which took place on July 11. These Hull importations of wool will be continued for at least 20 months; so the hope is expressed that such direct sailings between Australian ports and Hull will be continued after Government control has been removed.

"Popular taste still favors the finer grades of cloth, with the result that there are considerable stocks of both wool and tops of the coarser grades which are not receiving the attention they deserve."

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#### EMBARGO ON EXPORT OF HIDES AND SKINS FROM INDIA

A cablegram from the American Consul General at Calcutta, India, to the Department of State, dated August 27, 1919, reads as follows:

"The Collectors of Customs have been instructed by the Government of India not to permit the shipment of skins and hides from India to their destinations outside of the British Empire without first securing authority from the Government of India. This action

prevents further shipments to the United States for the present at least, and there is no reason given for this sudden and unexpected action."

### ITALIAN SYNDICATE FOR IMPORTATION OF HIDES AND SKINS

(Canadian Weekly Bulletin, August 4, 1919)

Mr. W. Mc. L. Clarke, Canadian Trade Commissioner in Milan, Italy, writes: "By recent ministerial decree there has been constituted a consortium, or syndicate, in Italy for the importation of hides and skins. This syndicate has complete control at present of the importation, distribution and sale of raw and tanned hides and skins, and tanning material. The provincial seat of this Consorzio is at the Hotel Continental, Rome."

### SHIPPING

#### Comparison of Ocean Freight Rates from Australia to the United Kingdom, 1914, 1918, and 1919

(Compiled from commercial sources)

Commodity	Unit	Rates in -		
		June, 1919	Oct., 1918	August, 1914
General cargo ...	*2,240 lbs. : or 40 cu. ft.	\$29.20	\$38.93	\$ 9.73 plus 20%
Copra .....	do	50.61	67.52	10.34 "
Hides .....	----	.038 <sup>a</sup>	.051 <sup>a</sup>	15.21 <sup>b</sup> "
Meats, preserved.	do	29.20	38.93	8.52 "
Sheepskins .....	----	.0329 <sup>a</sup>	.056 <sup>a</sup>	18.86 <sup>b</sup> "
Tallow .....	do	43.80	58.40	12.17 "
Timber .....	100 sq. ft. board measure	8.52	6.69	1.70 "
Wool .....	Pound	.0329	.0456	.0152-.0177 "

\*Ship's option.

<sup>a</sup>Rate per pound.

<sup>b</sup>Rate per ton of 2,240 pounds or 40 cubic feet, ship's option.

#### Ocean Freight Rates from Australia to the United States, June 1919

Commodity	Unit	Rate
General cargo ...	*2,240 lbs., or 40 cu. ft.	\$38.93
Jams .....	do	38.93
Meats, cased ...	do	38.93
Oil, coconut ...	do	29.20
Oil, eucalyptus.	do	38.93
Peas .....	do	29.20
Tallow .....	do	43.80

\*Ship's option.



# REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., September 18, 1919

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### PRELIMINARY REPORT ON CONDITIONS AFFECTING LIVESTOCK, MEATS, AND DAIRY PRODUCTS IN ITALY

By Turner R. H. Wright, Bureau of Markets, and George A. Bell,  
Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture

A general shortage of all kinds of livestock, meat, and dairy products exists in Italy at the present time (June, 1919), but the most serious shortage is in cattle, the number of which was not only reduced during the war, but has been further reduced by a very serious outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease which has been prevalent in various parts of Italy during the past year.

#### The Livestock Situation

The statistics giving the number of animals for 1908 and 1918 have been compiled from the censuses of those years; the figures for 1914 are estimates.

**HORSES AND OTHER EQUINE STOCK.**--The total number of horses, asses, and mules in Italy in 1908, 1914, and 1918 were as follows: 1908, 2,193,938; 1914, 2,235,000 (estimated); 1918, 2,055,878. This is a decrease of 179,122 head from 1914 to 1918, or 8 per cent. The number of horses in 1908 and 1918 were as follows: 1908, 955,878; 1918, 802,603. These figures show a decrease of 153,275 head, or 16 per cent in the numbers of horses from 1908 to 1918. There does not appear to be any desire to replenish the horse stock by importing any large numbers.

Note.--In this article the conversion of the Italian lira has been made at the rate of exchange prevailing about the first of June, when 1 lira = \$0.12.

Most of the horses, asses, and mules in Italy were small, there being but very few draft horses or mules either in the cities or in the country districts.

**CATTLE.**--The number of cattle (including buffaloes) for the years 1908, 1914, and 1918 were as follows: 1908, 6,218,227; 1914, 7,100,000 (estimated); 1918, 6,179,688. In 1908 there were 19,366 buffaloes in Italy; in 1918, 24,014.

These figures show a decrease of 920,312 head, or about 13 per cent from 1914 to 1918. However, this percentage does not represent the total decrease in production of meat and dairy products, the decrease in adult cattle being estimated at more than 20 per cent.

These statistics do not show the seriousness of the cattle situation in Italy at the present time (June, 1919). Since the 1918 census was taken, the foot-and-mouth disease has been prevalent in the cattle-growing sections with heavy losses which have been estimated by a Government official at nearly 50 per cent of the total number of cattle. The real damage to production is even greater than 50 per cent, owing to the reduction in flesh and milk production of the cattle which have recovered. This disease is still prevalent in many sections. If this estimate of the reduction in the herds is accurate it will take many years, probably from five to seven, even under the most favorable conditions, for the herds to be brought back to prewar strength.

Cattle are used largely for agricultural work and to some extent in the cities for hauling purposes. We were told that Italy is very short of mature work cattle, and is desirous of importing a number for that purpose. Such cattle are very high in price. A Government official said that extra-good pairs had been sold as high as 25,000 lire, which at the present rate of exchange (first part of June) is equivalent to about \$3,000.

There does not seem to be much interest at present in the matter of importing cattle for breeding purposes, although a small number will be brought in from Switzerland. In Northern Italy there are both Simmenthal and Brown Swiss cattle, both of which are popular with the Italians. Very little is known of American breeds. In the acclimatization of breeding stock imported from the United States it was feared that the losses might be large. However, some members of the Cooperative Producers' Society of Rome showed interest in the matter. Perhaps when conditions have become normal, greater interest may be taken in the importation of American cattle. We called their attention to the French importations and suggested that they see some of these cattle.

While the herds are being built up, the Italian Government purposes to import frozen and canned meats, and perhaps some live cattle for slaughter from North America and South America. Officials of the Government of Italy are endeavoring to make arrangements to use some of the deck space on steamers for carrying cattle. It was pointed out to us, however, that, in view of the shortage of shipping space and the large amount of space required for a relatively small number of live cattle, including the feed required on the voyage, many cattle could not be imported at present from the Americas, and that the dependence would be largely on meats.

**SHEEP AND GOATS.**--The number of sheep and goats combined for 1908, 1914, and 1918 were as follows: 1908, 13,877,804; 1914, 13,824,000 (estimated); 1918, 14,834,129.



The estimates for 1914 show about the same total number of sheep and goats in Italy in 1914 as in 1908, while from 1914 to 1918 there was an increase of 1,010,129 or about 7 per cent. The increase may be partially accounted for by an increase in grassland, owing to a reduction of land devoted to cereals and the less labor required for sheep and goats as compared with other domestic animals.

The number of sheep for 1908 and 1918 were as follows: 1908, 11,162,926; 1918, 11,751,575, an increase of 588,649 head or a little over 5 per cent. It is estimated that there has been some reduction in the number of sheep since the 1918 census, owing to the prevalence of foot-and-mouth disease, but the reduction has not been nearly so great as in the cattle stocks.

The number of goats in 1908 and 1918 were as follows: 1908, 2,714,878; 1918, 3,082,554, an increase of 367,676, or about 12 per cent.

SWINE.--The number of hogs in 1908, 1914, and 1918 were as follows: 1908, 2,508,798; 1914, 2,722,000 (estimated); 1918, 2,337,304. The decrease in the number of hogs from 1914 to 1918 was 384,696, or about 14 per cent. It is estimated that there has been a still further decrease on account of the foot-and-mouth disease. In spite of these decreases, Italian hogs are being sent into Switzerland for slaughter purposes.

#### The Meat Situation

Meats of all kinds, especially beef, are very scarce. There was very little on display in the stores and shops, very little was served at the hotels and restaurants, and private families had difficulty in obtaining any.

During the war the sale of meats of all kinds was under Government control at fixed prices. The control of prices for cattle, sheep, and goats still continues, but the control of prices for hogs was discontinued in April.

A Government official stated that the average prices for live cattle are about \$16.30 per cwt. (100 pounds) for mature cattle and \$19.05 per cwt. for veal. Sheep were selling on the basis of \$29.93 per cwt., dressed. The control price for live hogs which existed during the winter killing season, September to March, was \$27.21 per cwt., but the control price has been removed, and it is said there has since been an increase in prices paid for hogs. The fixed retail prices for beef and veal averaged about \$0.38 to \$0.49 per pound.

A large number of cattle were requisitioned for army purposes during the war on the basis of 1 animal out of every 10 mature animals in a community. The actual selection of the animals was left to the community officials. The number of cattle, including calves for veal, which can be used for civilian consumption has also been restricted by the Government, the maximum number which can be slaughtered being 50,000 head a month. The removal of all restrictions governing the slaughter of cattle and sheep is being considered, and it is thought that such action will be taken in a short time. A Government official stated that the retail price of beef probably would go to \$1.35 a pound when free trading and slaughtering is allowed.

AMERICAN PORK IMPORTED.--Retail prices for meat in various shops in Rome on May 29 were \$0.49 a pound for beef, \$0.38 a pound for mutton, and \$0.33

a pound for goat. Beef was offered at only two or three places out of about 15 or 20 visited and was of very poor quality. No fresh pork was seen in any of the shops, but American dry salt, heavy sides and shoulders were being sold at \$0.24 a pound. It was said that this meat was meeting with a very good demand among the poorer classes and even among the medium classes of trade.

According to a Government official, much of the pork imported from America has been of very poor quality and the Italian Government has been forced to sell it at a loss. The Secretary of the Union of the Chambers of Commerce stated, however, that the better grades of pork, especially hams and bacon, imported from America had met with very good favor.

**DIFFICULTY OF OBTAINING ADEQUATE SUPPLIES.**--The question of obtaining adequate supplies of meat during the next year seemed to be giving the Government officials much concern. It was stated that the chief difficulties are the rate of exchange prevailing, the difficulty of obtaining shipping space, and lack of cold-storage facilities in Italy.

Official statistics show that the following quantities of frozen meats were imported by Italy during the years 1915 to 1918 (in pounds): 1915, 67,165,344; 1916, 193,475,696; 1917, 210,012,400; 1918, 367,195,971.

The number of cattle slaughtered during the same period were as follows:

Year	For the Army	For Civilians	Total::	Year	For the Army	For Civilians	Total
1915...	500,000	1,400,000	1,900,000::	1917...	850,000	720,000	1,570,000
1916...	610,000	1,400,000	2,010,000::	1918...	810,000	650,000	1,460,000

According to the Annual Statistical Report for 1916, 22,706,719 pounds of smoked and cured meats were imported in 1915, and 12,292,527 pounds in 1916; 67,336,861 and 62,932,071 pounds of fat were imported during 1915 and 1916, respectively. The bulk of these importations came from the United States. Statistics for 1917 and 1918 were not available.

It is estimated that the needs of the country for meat from outside sources for the remainder of the present year will be about 44,092,000 pounds a month. The policy of the Government probably will be to encourage the importation of as much of this amount as exchange and credit arrangements and shipping facilities will permit in order to give the herds a chance to increase.

The importation of meat during the war and since the signing of the armistice has been handled by the Government, but individuals probably will be allowed to make importations in a short time.

**DEMAND FOR HORSE MEAT.**--There is considerable demand in Italy at present among the poorer classes for horse meat because of its relative cheapness. Government officials were of the opinion that considerable horse meat could be sold in Italy to advantage if it could be put on the market immediately in good condition. They doubted, however, if a permanent demand for horse meat from other countries could be built up because of the natural prejudice against it and the general prejudice against all frozen meat.

The Secretary of the Union of the Chambers of Commerce said that considerable horse meat could probably be sold in the industrial centers while



the herds of cattle and sheep are being replenished if it could be put on the market at a relatively low price.

### The Poultry and Egg Situation

Italy seems to be fairly well off for poultry and eggs. Restaurant and market prices for these commodities are much lower than in France. Eggs were selling in Rome for about \$0.57 a dozen. Before the war Italy exported large quantities of poultry and eggs, but at present this trade is greatly reduced.

### The Milk Situation

There is a great shortage of milk in Italy owing to the reduction in the herds. Fresh milk was selling in Rome for 1 lira per liter (\$0.11 per quart). We were told that the Italians would do without milk before they would pay much above that price.

There is quite a demand for condensed milk at present because many people do not care to use fresh milk owing to the prevalence of the foot-and-mouth disease among the herds. With proper advertising quite a market might be built up for condensed milk, but it would have to sell at a price not greater than the equivalent to 1 lira per liter for fresh milk.

### Butter and Cheese

Butter and cheese are scarce. Before the war Italy exported a large quantity of cheese, but at present very little is being exported.

### Conclusions

There is no doubt that a great need for the importation of both livestock and animal products into Italy exists, but their purchase depends to a large extent on the rate of exchange and amount of credit which can be obtained, on the final settlement of the terms of peace, and on the transportation facilities. At present the rate of exchange in American money is very unfavorable to Italy, the lira being worth during the first part of June about \$0.12. It will probably be the policy of the Government to discourage the importation of other than absolute necessities as long as the rate of exchange is so unfavorable.

### COTTON SITUATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

(Excerpts from Report of the American Agricultural Trade Commissioner  
at London, August, 1919)

The British Board of Trade states that the present stocks of raw cotton in the hands of British spinners are very small; it is probable that no mill has a supply for more than two or three weeks ahead.

Labor conditions and the high price of cotton, together with the uncertainty of exchange (and foreign markets) and the difficulty of obtaining bottoms for deliveries of manufactured products, have made the spinners

cautious. Few or none of them have large supplies at their mills. Where spinners have bought ahead they have been content, on account of transportation and other difficulties, to leave their stocks in the large public and private warehouses.

It is inevitable that the general labor unrest, apparent in all industrial lines, should have its effect on the cotton workers. An investigation indicates that at the present time the relations between the master spinner and his employees are in better shape than the relations between employer and employee in any other industry in Great Britain. In Manchester, the most "American" of English cities, there is a unanimous desire to get the industries on a satisfactory footing.

The recent cotton strike, which was settled by an agreement between the parties, was settled with a view to a permanent working relation between employer and employee and resulted in a permanent and satisfactory arrangement more than covering the coming cotton year. No further labor trouble in the cotton industry is looked for. There is no reason to fear any diminution of production for lack of orders.

While the cotton industry is at peace with itself, it is still dependent on the coal industry. This question really dominates the spinning industry, as without coal the mills can not run. The coal industry of Great Britain is in a chaotic condition and there seems to be no relief in sight. Production is low, and therefore a coal famine which would result in a stoppage of the Manchester industries is feared. Just how serious that stoppage will be is hard to determine.

At the present time, when the weather is warm and practically no coal is being consumed by householders, some of the mills are unable to get coal and have shut down entirely, while others are running only three or four days a week. This condition is bound to become worse this winter.

The miners want Government control of the mines, and argue that nationalization alone will restore production to its prewar figures.

Exchange is quite a serious problem. Every fluctuation of exchange means an increase or decrease in the price of cotton, and it is to be hoped that conditions will stabilize the pound sterling so that this element of uncertainty may be eliminated.

The very uncertain shipping facilities of Liverpool are a matter of grave concern. At present there is a lack of storage space at the docks at Liverpool that delays all shipments three or four weeks in the stream before unloading. Then, labor conditions are bad; the dockers work only at will, and the quality of the work is far below the prewar standard. These conditions are a cause of a heavy burden on the cost of cotton deliveries.

In this regard Manchester, now that the war is over, is again urging the merits of the Port of Manchester. At Manchester cotton ships can come to the docks and unload the cotton on the drays of the cotton spinners, thus eliminating all the delays of the Port of Liverpool and its expenses, which are a very considerable item in the handling of cotton to the spinners.

The Manchester Cotton Association calls attention to the fact that Manchester is within 10 to 35 miles of all the great cotton mills of Lancashire, and that motor facilities and good roads make it possible to deliver goods from wharf to mill direct.

Keen interest is apparent all through the spinning centers as to the ability of Germany to resume active competition. Some apprehension has been



caused by the stories of Germany's herculean effort to regain its former eminence by the addition of two patriotic hours to the working day.

However, the depreciation of German currency is causing some anxiety, inasmuch as labor will be paid with the "cheap money", which will give Germany the advantage of offering for export products produced by cheap labor.

The following table gives the ocean freight rates on raw cotton from India and Egypt to the United Kingdom, and the recent rates from the United Kingdom to various countries. The present rates from the United States to the United Kingdom were published in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 24, page 10.

Current Ocean Freight Rates on Raw Cotton to  
and from the United Kingdom\*

From -	:	Unit	:	American Cotton	:	Egyptian Cotton	:	Indian Cotton
To -	:		:		:		:	
Bombay to	:	Per ton of	:		:		:	
Liverpool	:	40 cu. ft.	:	---	:	---	:	\$27.98
Alexandria to	:		:		:		:	
Liverpool	:	do.	:	---	:	\$16.42**	:	---
Liverpool to	:	Per ton of	:		:		:	
Copenhagen	:	2240 lbs.	:	\$36.50	:	24.33	:	24.33
Christiania	:	do.	:	36.50	:	24.33	:	24.33
Göteborg	:	do.	:		:	24.33	:	24.33
Havre	:	Per ton of	:		:		:	
	:	40 cu. ft.	:	12.17	:	12.17	:	12.17
Antwerp or	:	Per ton of	:		:		:	
Ghent	:	2240 lbs.	:	21.90	:	17.03	:	17.03
Dunkirk	:	----	:	27.98 <sup>a</sup>	:	12.17 <sup>b</sup>	:	12.17 <sup>b</sup>
Rotterdam	:	Per ton of	:		:		:	
	:	2240 lbs. or	:	9.73	:	9.73	:	9.73
	:	40 cu. ft.	:		:		:	

\*Rates quoted in English currency and converted to American currency at par of exchange.

\*\*On October 1 the rate will be increased to \$17.03.

<sup>a</sup>Per ton of 2,240 lbs.

<sup>b</sup>Per ton of 2,240 lbs. or 40 cu. ft., ship's option.

The approximate transshipping expenses at Liverpool at present vary from \$2.43 to \$3.65 per ton of 2,240 pounds, divided about as follows: inward dues, \$0.85 per ton; outward dues, \$0.43 per ton (in the case of transshipment of cargo this charge does not apply); master portorage, \$0.65 per ton; cartage, \$0.25 per bale. In addition, there will be quay rent and watching.

THE EMBARGO ON THE EXPORT OF AMERICAN COTTON FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM HAS BEEN REMOVED, according to a cablegram from the American Consul General at London, dated September 10, 1919.

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THE FREIGHT RATE ON FLOUR IN SACKS from Pacific coast ports to Manila, Yokohama, Kobe, Hongkong, and Shanghai has been reduced to \$0.50 per 100 pounds effective August 18, 1919, as announced by the United States Shipping Board. The previous rate was \$0.60 per cwt.

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NEW ZEALAND WANTS AMERICAN FRUIT.--During October, November, and December American fruits will find a ready market in New Zealand. An importer of fruit at Wellington states that "opportunities here are particularly bright for the forthcoming season" and requests cabled information regarding possible shipments of dessert apples, oranges, and lemons. If interested, ask for report "ad".

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MARKET FOR DRIED FRUIT IN BELGIUM.--A firm which has been established for 30 years at Anvers, Belgium, desires quotations, c.i.f. Antwerp, on dried apricots, apples, peaches, and prunes, in 25-and 50-pound boxes. If interested ask for report "ae".

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MARKET FOR COTTONSEED-OIL CAKE.--A Japanese house desires trade contact with American firms for a large supply of cottonseed-oil cake. If interested, ask for report "af".

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#### RESTRICTION ON EXPORT OF WOOL REMOVED BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

(Cablegram from American Consul General at London, Sept. 8, 1919)

The British Government announced the removal of the restriction on the exportation of raw wool in bales, cased, scoured wool matchings, and wool tops. In 11,000 bales of Government wool sold at Hull, South Australian scoured combings brought 70d. (\$1.21)\* and Wellington crossbreds 36d (\$0.62)\* per pound.

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\*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on Sept. 8, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.1525.

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SEP 27 1919

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS  
FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTSUNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF MARKETS  
FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., September 25, 1919

## C O N T E N T S

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CONDITIONS AFFECTING LIVESTOCK, MEATS, AND  
DAIRY PRODUCTS IN SWITZERLAND\*

By Turner R. H. Wright, Bureau of Markets, and George A. Bell,  
Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

In common with the other European countries we have visited, a general shortage of livestock, meats, and dairy products, with the consequent high prices, exists in Switzerland. There is little, if any, scarcity of work animals, the decrease being principally in the weight of meat animals and in the supply of dairy products, due to the shortage of feedstuffs. Oxen, young cattle, sheep, and goats have increased in numbers. Until the herds are re-established, the importation of livestock for slaughter will be made, and there should be a good market also for concentrated feedstuffs.

The Livestock Situation

Horses.—According to the Swiss census statistics, in 1911 there were 144,126 horses in the republic. By 1916 this number had decreased to 136,836, and by 1918 to 128,971, a reduction of 10.5 per cent from the prewar-year figure. The Swiss work a large number of oxen and cows, and even some bulls; for light hauling logs are used. Consequently the shortage of horses is not of material concern, especially as the number of oxen has increased. A few horses, however, may be imported from the United States for use on farms and in the cavalry. Good draft horses sell for from \$500 to \$800.

\*In this article the conversion of Swiss currency into U. S. money has been made at par value.

Cattle.—There has been a decrease in the number of cows and slaughter cattle and an increase in young cattle, bulls, and oxen from 1911 to 1918, as is shown by Table 1.

TABLE 1.—Census of Cattle in Switzerland for 1911, 1916, and 1918

Kind	1911	1916	1918	Change, 1911 to 1918
				Per cent
Bulls .....	26,207:	33,334:	34,479:	+31.6
Oxen .....	40,863:	43,939:	58,380:	+42.9
Cows .....	796,509:	849,011:	786,565:	- 1.28
Young cattle:				
1 to 2 years old.....	258,424:	308,921:	327,207:	+26.6
Under 1 yr. old, for				
breeding purposes...	282,372:	342,568:	298,857:	+ 5.84
Cattle for slaughtering:	38,708:	38,120:	25,034:	-54.6
Total .....	1,443,183:	1,615,893:	1,530,522:	+ 6.05

Since the census was taken in 1918, it is estimated that there has been a small decrease in large cattle. Although Switzerland has more cattle now than in 1911, this must not be taken to mean that the country is in a better condition from the standpoint of meat and dairy products, for the increase in number is in the young animals which are not in milk nor old enough to market for meat to the best advantage. Furthermore the feed situation has been critical, owing to the lack of concentrated feedstuffs and to use of large areas of pasture land for crops for human consumption; consequently the cattle are thin and the milk production has been greatly reduced. On the whole the Swiss cattle are not in as good condition as those in France.

Swiss regulations forbid the importation of cattle for breeding purposes. However, large numbers were imported in prewar times for slaughter, and it will be the policy of Switzerland to import slaughter animals in larger numbers than formerly until the herds are again restored. In our opinion this will take three or four years, although the demand from neighboring countries for Swiss breeding stock may prolong this period. Then, too, we were informed that Switzerland has agreed to furnish France with 25,000 head of cattle, mostly dairy cows. Before the war Switzerland imported for slaughter 50,000 or 60,000 cattle, Italy and France being the principal sources of supply. The European supply of slaughter cattle being cut off, Switzerland is turning to North America and South America to fill her needs.

The Swiss Federal Veterinary Office in Berne stated that there are no special regulations governing the importation of slaughter cattle from the United States, provided no difficulties are placed on shipments in transit through the countries bordering on Switzerland. The Swiss quarantine regulations in general provide that the animals must be accompanied by health certificates from their country of origin and must be examined at the frontier by official veterinarians.

Good dairy cows bring from \$500 to \$800, which is three or four times the price before the war.



Sheep.--In 1911 there were 161,414 sheep in Switzerland; in 1916, 172,938; and in 1918, 229,549; an increase of 42 per cent from 1911 to 1918. Before the war large numbers of sheep were imported, the number in 1913 being 113,257.

Goats.--The numbers of goats increased from 341,296 in 1911 to 358,887 in 1916, or 5 per cent; and decreased from 1916 to 1918 to 356,455, or less than 1 per cent. In 1918 there were 250,004 milk goats in the republic.

Swine.--Hogs decreased from 570,226 in 1911 to 544,563 in 1916 and to 365,798 in 1918, or 36 per cent. From 1916 to 1918 there was a decrease of almost 30 per cent in the number of brood sows. While these decreases are not serious, inasmuch as the swine population can be restored in a comparatively short time, it does mean that during the restoration period an increased amount of pork and pork products must be imported. Before the war Switzerland imported from 50,000 to 110,000 hogs annually from Italy, France, Netherlands, and Denmark. We saw dressed carcasses of hogs in the abattoirs at both Zurich and Berne which, we were told, had been imported as live hogs from Italy by the Swiss Government.

### The Meat Situation

The meat situation in Switzerland is serious, and a Government official stated that conditions would probably be worse during the winter of 1919-20 if greater quantities of meat were not imported. Beefless weeks and meatless days have occurred this spring. The decrease in the local supply is shown by a comparison of the numbers of stock handled at the 19 largest abattoirs in March and April, 1918, and March and April, 1919, as published in "Der Bund" at Berne for May 16, 1919.

TABLE 2.-Comparison of Livestock Slaughtered in Switzerland in March and April, 1918 and 1919

Animal	: 1918	: 1919	: Animal	: 1918	: 1919
Bulls .....	1,393	: 732	Calves ..	20,832	: 17,347
Oxen .....	1,333	: 969	Swine....	8,248	: 6,132
Cows .....	6,170	: 3,711			
Young cattle (horned) .....	3,386	: 1,954			
Total, big cattle .....	12,282	: 7,366			

These figures show a decrease in the number of large cattle slaughtered of 40 per cent; in the number of calves slaughtered of 17 per cent; and in the number of swine slaughtered of 26 per cent.

Table 3 shows the normal prewar consumption of meats, meat products, and fats in Switzerland, as estimated by the Food Administration of Switzerland.

According to the Swiss Department of Agriculture, the home production of beef during the war has decreased materially. This decrease has been due to the causes already mentioned. It was stated also that as a counter effect

the average consumption of meat per capita had decreased considerably on account of the high prices which had prevailed. It is estimated that the needs for the present year will be about 10,000 tons of 2,204.6 pounds of frozen meat.

TABLE 3.-Normal Consumption of Meats, Meat Products,  
and Fats by Switzerland, Compiled from Statistics  
of the Swiss Food Administration

Kind	Production	Imports	Consumption
Meats	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Beef .....	141,942,768	46,860,850	188,803,617
Veal .....	38,314,632	2,407,236	40,721,868
Pork .....	146,051,046	13,909,856	159,960,904
Mutton .....	3,916,626	7,271,600	11,188,226
Goat meat .....	3,444,150	23,644	3,420,505
Horse meat .....	3,849,150	2,386,590	6,235,740
Other kinds ....	----	21,163,153	21,163,153
Sausage, etc....	----	7,936,972	7,936,972
Total meats...	337,518,372	101,964,901	439,435,935
Fats			
Fresh butter ...	30,643,940	10,432,388	41,076,328
Salted butter ..	----	44,974	44,974
Lard .....	----	3,890,237	3,890,237
Margarine .....	----	3,115,540	3,115,540
Total fats....	30,643,940	17,483,139	48,227,079

Inasmuch as refrigerating facilities in Switzerland are not adequate to handle very large quantities of frozen meat at one time, it is likely that a good many live cattle for slaughter may be purchased.

We were told that the Swiss Government is negotiating with the American Army in France for the purchase of about 4,000 tons of meat.

The American pork we saw on sale in Switzerland was of very poor quality. It is essential that some effort be made to improve the quality of the meat offered and to put it on the market in a more attractive form if a substantial export trade is to be established.

The average prices for slaughter animals during the first part of June were as follows; per 100 pounds: Fat cows, \$25.90 to \$29.60; fat beeves, \$29.50 to \$33.30; fat oxen, \$28.80 to \$33.70; fat calves, \$31 to \$34.10; fat hogs, \$56.90 to \$63. Pigs 5 to 6 weeks old were selling at \$26 each; 2 months old, \$33.78; 3 months old, \$42.85; 4 months old, \$54.43. Before the war cattle sold for \$17.50 to \$19 per cwt., and hogs \$26 to \$30 per cwt.

At the market in Bern the following retail prices per pound prevailed: Veal, \$0.525 to \$0.783; mutton, \$0.61; fresh pork, \$0.783; bacon, \$1.05; American cured dry, salted shoulders and rough rib sides, \$0.56.

Horse Meat.-Some horse meat is consumed by the poorer classes, owing to the high prices of other meats. No doubt larger quantities could be sold at the present time, but it is doubtful whether there would be much of a future demand.

Poultry.-Poultry is very scarce in Switzerland. Even in prewar times comparatively few chickens were raised, owing to the lack of suitable poultry feed.



Dairy Products

Milk.--There is a great shortage of milk in Switzerland as compared with the prewar supply, due to two factors: the decreased number of cows in milk and the decreased production per cow. A member of the Swiss Department of Agriculture stated that the estimated annual production of milk per cow before the war was 925 gallons and that at present it was 660 gallons, a reduction of about 28 per cent. This decrease is caused partly by the fact that a larger number of the animals in milk are heifers, but by far the greater factor is the feed shortage. Milk retails in the cities for about \$0.074 a quart, the control price, but we were informed that a higher price probably would be allowed.

Butter and Cheese.--The scarcity of milk has, of course, produced a great scarcity of butter and cheese, and instead of exporting cheese, as before the war, Switzerland has become a cheese-importing country. Negotiations are now under way with Denmark, Holland, and the United States for the purchase of butter and cheese. Butter was selling at \$0.74 a pound and was very difficult to obtain. Swiss Gruyere cheese was on sale at Berne on May 17 at \$0.37 a pound.

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CUBAN STOCK BREEDER DESIRES TO IMPORT AMERICAN CATTLE.--One of the largest cattle raisers in eastern Cuba is interested in improving his stock with heavy meat sires. If interested, ask for report "ah."

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CANADIAN FIRM WISHES TO ESTABLISH CONNECTIONS WITH AMERICAN IMPORTERS OF FOODSTUFFS.--- A firm located at Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, desires to establish trade connections with American importers of maple sugar, maple sirup, potatoes, turnips, and hay. If interested, ask for report "ag."

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RAW COTTON IMPORTER AT TRIESTE IN MARKET FOR AMERICAN COTTON.--An importer of raw cotton at Trieste desires immediate offer and samples of American raw cotton. If interested, ask for report Trieste 123935.

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REVISED FREIGHT RATES TO MEDITERRANEAN AND RED SEA PORTS.--The United States Shipping Board has published revised rates to North African ports of call; Egyptian ports of call; Alexandretta, Beirut, and Smyrna, Turkey; and the Red Sea ports of Aden and Hodeida, as follows, per 100 pounds: Canned goods, \$1.80; canned meats, \$2.25; cottonseed oil, \$2.25; packing-house products, \$2.75; rice, \$1.75. The rate to Valetta, Malta, will be \$0.25 per cwt. in addition to the foregoing rates. The minimum bill-of-lading charge will be \$10.

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OUTLOOK FOR AMERICAN TRADE IN SWEDEN.--"I found Sweden frankly friendly, and without an exception, merchants were looking forward to a growing trade and cooperation with the United States," says a supercargo in a recent report to the United States Shipping Board. "Under present conditions the trade



demands of Sweden cover a wide field which affords opportunities for solicitation along practically all lines of general supply. Foodstuffs of all kinds, canned goods and otherwise, including meats and other edibles that will stand the long shipment, should find a ready market. Sugar, wheat, dairy products, and meats were particularly limited. There is a thriving demand for American tobacco."

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CUBAN SUGAR PLANTERS TO FORM PRICE-BOOSTING COMMITTEE.--"Sixty per cent of the Cuban sugar planters have pledged placing the 1920 crop in the hands of a planters' committee to hold up the market," reports a supercargo of the United States Shipping Board. "It was said that this committee will be the forerunner of a sugar-exporting committee similar to that of the Brazilian coffee growers."

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BUTTER AGAIN UNDER CONTROL OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT.--Agricultural Trade Commissioner Foley cabled, under date of September 11, that the British Government assumed control of butter from September 9. Supplies and contracts have been commandeered, and all further private dealings are prohibited.

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CANADIAN CHEESE SHIPPED TO FRANCE BY PARCEL POST.--"Mr. Philippe Roy, Commissioner General of Canada in Paris, France, reports that Mr. John F. Ryan, of Montreal, while in France presented to a number of merchants in Paris samples of cheese which he had received by parcel post. The samples were sent to him in 10-pound cylinders dipped in paraffin and wrapped in ordinary wrapping paper. He received the cheese 34 days after it was mailed, and it reached him in remarkably good condition. Mr. Ryan cut the cheese and distributed it among dealers in Paris, who thought at first that it was English Cheddar and were amazed when told it had been shipped from Canada by parcel post."--Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada, August 25, 1919.

EGG SITUATION IN ENGLAND.---The following statement and prices of eggs in England have been taken from the weekly report of the Poultry Division of the Department of Agriculture of Canada, for September 9, 1919:

"During the past few days a few thousand cases of fresh eggs have been sold for export to Great Britain. It is reported these sales were made on a basis of \$0.64 to 0.65 seaboard, prompt shipment. Some British importers are reported to have recently been inquiring if some of their purchases of storage eggs could be disposed of on this side. It is said the unfavorable rate of exchange at present prevailing is the cause of this. This market, however, is in no shape to take care of any eggs held on export account.



Latest British Wholesale Egg Prices\*--London, September 6, 1919: English eggs, \$0.93 to 1.09 a dozen; Irish \$0.83 to 0.89 a dozen; Danish, \$0.87 to 0.91 a dozen; American, \$0.68 to 0.71 a dozen. Liverpool, September 6, 1919: Canadian eggs, \$0.66 a dozen."

\*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on September 6, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.1475.

A REARRANGEMENT OF LONDON WOOL AUCTION PROGRAM has been found necessary in order to give the warehousemen sufficient time to handle the large quantities of wool that are coming forward. The dates of the remaining series are as follows: September 15 to October 3; October 20 to November 3; November 24 to December 12.

#### REPORTS ON SIXTH SERIES OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS\*

(Cabled Reports from the American Consul General at London)

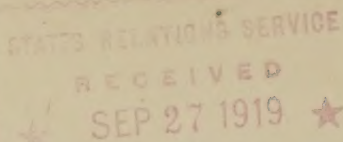
The sixth series of auctions of colonial wools at London opened on September 15. Approximately 200,000 bales, 130,000 bales on inspection and 70,000 on description, will be offered for sale during the series. Practically 10,500 bales were cleared on the first day, notwithstanding a rather indifferent selection. Merinos brought 5 to 10 per cent more than in the August series, being taken by American buyers. The latter figure was frequently exceeded. The prices of the better grades of crossbreds also improved. The lower grades of crossbreds, inferior scoured merinos, and the small supply of Cape wools ruled on a par with the last sale. The best Queensland greasy merino combings reached 55d. (\$0.96) per pound. Choice Victorian scoured merino clothing wools marked "Clyde" and "Gibb" realized 77 and 75d. (\$1.34 and \$1.31), respectively.

At the wool auctions on the 16th the 9,800 bales offered were of a better assortment and keener competition resulted, especially on part of American operators, who purchased most of the best parcels of merino wool at prices 5 per cent above the opening rates. Sydney greasy merinos ranged up to 65d. (\$1.12) a pound. Queensland scoured merino combings ranged from 54 to 85½d. (\$0.93 to \$1.48), with pieces from 52 to 63d. (\$0.90 to \$1.09). The best Victorian greasy crossbreds and comeback clips realized 39 and 46d. (\$0.67 and \$0.80), respectively. New Zealand greasy crossbreds ranged from 18 to 39d. (\$0.31 to \$0.67).

On the 17th 9,500 bales were offered. Superior Victorian scoured merino combing and also clothing descriptions reached the record price of 90d. (\$1.55) per pound. Scoured merino pieces and bellies from Sydney and Queensland ranged up to 68 and 69d. (\$1.17 and \$1.19), respectively. American buyers took practically all best parcels of greasy merinos at prices from 48 to 59d. (\$0.83 to \$1.02). New Zealand greasy crossbreds, medium to coarse qualities, were in demand by French and American buyers at prices mostly favorable to the sellers.

\*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on day of sale: September 15, 1 pound sterling = \$4.18; September 16, \$4.15; September 17, \$4.14.





RESTRICTIONS ON THE EXPORT OF HIDES AND SKINS FROM INDIA HAVE BEEN REMOVED, according to the following cablegram from the American Consul General at Calcutta, dated September 4, 1919: "I am now advised by the Collector of Customs that shipments of hides and skins will be permitted to all destinations except enemy and Scandinavian countries without reference to the Indian Government." This annuls the embargo placed on August 27, which was reported in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 25, page 11.

EXPORT DUTY ON INDIAN HIDES AND SKINS.--According to a cablegram from the American Consul General at Calcutta, dated September 12, 1919, a bill which will undoubtedly be approved and will go into effect immediately was introduced on September 11 before Viceroy's Legislative Council, imposing on Indian hides and skins an export duty of 15 per cent, with 10 per cent rebate for shipments to destinations within British Empire, provided that before reexport they are tanned there. For assessment of the export duty the proposed valuations are as follows per pound: \$0.25 for arsenicated air-dried cowhides; \$0.20 for dry salted cowhide; \$0.14, wet salted cowhide. Sheepskins \$0.648 per piece; goatskins, \$1.30.

THE EXPORT OF HIDES, PIGSKINS, AND LAMBSKINS FROM NORWAY HAS BEEN PROHIBITED, effective September 15, according to a report of the American Consul General at Christiania. Calfskins may be exported in quantities equal to the corresponding quantities sold for domestic consumption. The following table gives our imports (pounds) of hides and skins from Norway for the fiscal years 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917:

Kind	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Calfskins:					
Dry .....	287,389	187,847	361,246	695,423	271,934
Green or					
pickled .....	413,749	895,263	1,545,869	1,434,258	185,344
Cattle hides:					
Dry .....	97,734	168,994	38,481	----	---
Green or					
pickled .....	836,609	473,827	737,484	1,722,555	78,474
Sheepskins .....	26,066	72,761	18,372	2,955	8,716
All other .....	---	60,504	1,083,852	616,139	135,693

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE TRADE COMBINE IN THE NETHERLANDS.--Mr. Ph. Geleerd, Acting Canadian Trade Commissioner in the Netherlands, writing from Rotterdam on July 10, reports that the principal Dutch firms engaged in the fruit and vegetable trade in Holland have formed a combine with a capital of \$1,206,000 exclusively for the purpose of the importation and sale of fresh fruit, potatoes and onions. This association, named "Algemeene Veruchten Import Maatschappij" (General Fruit Import Company), has offices in Amsterdam and Rotterdam.--Weekly Bulletin of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada, August 25, 1919.